

CLAIMS

1 1. A system for processing incoming wastewater to obtain therefrom an overboard discharge
2 of contaminant free condensate, comprising: heat exchange means for preheating the wastewater;
3 a flash chamber having upper and bottom sections; orifice means connecting the heat exchange
4 means to the flash chamber for flashing conversion of the wastewater preheated in the heat
5 exchange means into water vapor rising into the upper section of the flash chamber and
6 contaminants deposited into the bottom section thereof; filter means within the flash chamber for
7 limiting extraction from the rising water vapor to a condensate; tank means operatively connected
8 to the flash chamber for collecting the condensate extracted through the filtering means; and
9 pump means connected to the tank means for respectively storing the contaminants and effecting
10 said overboard discharge.

1 2. The system as defined in claim 1, including: pressure responsive control means connected
2 to said pump means for regulating operation thereof to maintain a vacuum pressure within the
3 upper section of the flash chamber and limiting quantities of the condensate and the contaminants
4 collected within the tank means.

1 3. The system as defined in claim 2, wherein said pump means includes: a vacuum pump
2 connected to the flashing chamber for withdrawal of the rising water vapor from the upper section
3 thereof to establish the vacuum pressure therein inducing rise of the water vapor under control of
4 the pressure responsive control means.

1 4. The system as defined in claim 3, including: heat absorber means within the bottom
2 section of the flash chamber through which the incoming wastewater is conducted for heating by
3 absorption of heat therefrom into the contaminants; and condenser means connected to the
4 vacuum pump means for condensation of the water vapor by cooling in response to transfer of
5 heat therefrom to provide a condensate of the water vapor.

1 5. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said pump means includes: a vacuum pump
2 connected to the flash chamber for withdrawal of the rising water vapor from the upper section
3 thereof to establish the vacuum pressure therein inducing said rise of the water vapor; and trough
4 means within the flash chamber for collecting liquefied water vapor separated from the rising
5 water vapor within the upper section to maintain said vacuum pressure therein.

1 6. The system as defined in claim 5, further including: cooling means connected to the
2 vacuum pump for condensing the water vapor received therefrom in a superheated and
3 compressed condition into the condensate.

1 7. The system as defined in claim 6, wherein said cooling means comprises condenser means
2 connected to the vacuum pump for withdrawal of heat from the water vapor in the superheated
3 and compressed condition; and heat absorber means connected to the condenser means for
4 transferring heat to the wastewater to the rising water vapor before supply to the condenser
5 means.

1 8. The system as defined in claim 7, including: pressure responsive control means connected
2 to said pump means for regulating operation thereof to limit quantities of the condensate and the
3 contaminants collected within the tank means.

1 9. The system as defined in claim 8, including; a holding tank from which the incoming
2 wastewater is derived; monitoring means connected to the pump means for limiting the overboard
3 discharge to an oil concentrate portion of the collected condensate; and means for returning an
4 oil-reduced content portion of the condensate from the monitoring means to the holding tank.